Ms. Jeannie Cole, vice president, called the meeting to order. Other Board members present were Dr. Deanie Mehl, Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Esq., Mr. Rusty Owen and Ms. Susan McFerran. Dr. David Hunton and Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin were absent. Dr. Benny Gooden, superintendent, Dr. Gordon Floyd, deputy superintendent, and Ms. Nadine Brooks, secretary to the superintendent, were also present.

The pledge of allegiance was recited and Dr. Barry Owen gave the invocation.

The consent agenda includes the October 17, 2012 school board minutes, the October Financial Report, and the Student Services Report. Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Ms. McFerran, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Dr. Benny Gooden yielded to Dr. Gordon Floyd to review the professional staff recommendations.

Resignations
Danielle Mille
Anthony Sims

Retirements
Gloria Cates
Charlene Fite
Betty Overturf
Brenda Ruttle

Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Mr. Owen to approve the resignations and retirements. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Recommendations for Employment
Richard Derek Barlow
Crystal A. Durham
Jennifer G. Frost
Maxine Annette Lauver
Virginia R. Liner
Glenda L. Pratt
Deborah A. Ulrich

Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mehl, to approve the recommendations for employment. The vote for approval was 5/0.
Leave of Absence
Crystal Evans

Dr. Mehl made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade to approve the leave of absence. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Dr. Gooden and Ms. Cole recognized Jennifer Howald, Woods Elementary Fourth Grade Teacher for the 2012 Bessie B. Moore award for her E+E=E² class project focusing on risks and rewards of entrepreneurship. Ms. Peggy Walter, Fairview Elementary Principal was also recognized as a 2012 National Distinguished Principal by the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). Ms. Walter was honored at an awards banquet in Washington, D.C. on October 19 during National Principals Month. She was one of 60 principals across the nation to receive this honor.

Dr. Gooden reported that Ms. Marquita Cart of Northside was recognized as one of four finalists for Arkansas teacher of the year.

Dr. Gooden reported that the State Department released ratings under the revised accountability plan and that there was not a lot of change to the Fort Smith Public Schools. Mr. Wade questioned what criteria the State used to determine these ratings. Dr. Gooden explained the process which sometimes contradicts previous designations.

Dr. Gooden also reported that due to the Hostess strike and liquidation, Fort Smith Public Schools has lost the vendor supplying bakery products. Mrs. Baird’s was the only other vendor to submit a bid in June, although it was received after the bid deadline had passed. Mrs. Baird’s agreed to honor the bid submitted. Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mehl to formally approve the use of Mrs. Baird’s for bakery supplies for the remainder of school year. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Ms. Cole recognized Mr. Owen for the Properties Committee. Mr. Owen made a motion that the seven firms which had submitted qualifications for construction management be approved for utilization as their expertise meets various projects. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Mr. Wade made the motion that the FSPS 2013/2014 calendar be approved as presented. The vote for approval was 5/0. The calendar is attached.

Ms. Cole made the motion that the December board meeting be rescheduled on December 17 due to the Christmas holiday. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Ms. Cole recognized Mr. Wade for the Student Affairs Committee Report. Mr. Wade made a motion, Dr. Mehl seconded that expulsion
recommendations be approved for two students who each threatened other students and had knives in their possession. One student admitted threatening students with the knife to extort money. The other admitted that he threatened to kill another student with the knife. The vote for approval was 5/0.

Dr. Mehl asked if these students will receive instructional aid. Dr. Gooden stated that the district does not offer instructional aid to students who are expelled. Such assistance is provided at the juvenile detention center.

Ms. Cole noted how nice it was to meet at Chaffin Junior High earlier in the month. Mr. Wade commented on the media article in the Times Record regarding FOI and meeting places that was addressed at the City Council meeting.

Dr. Mehl asked Dr. Bridges if alcohol suspensions had decreased for this school year with the new policies implemented. Dr. Bridges reported that there appear to be fewer incidents and suspensions to date. Ms. Cole commented on the Staff Bulletin and commended the six marching bands for excellent performances at the Region Marching Contest.

Ms. Cole introduced a sequestration resolution for the Board to consider. Mr. Wade made a motion to place this resolution on the agenda for discussion, Dr. Mehl seconded and the motion was approved 5/0. Ms. Cole yielded to Dr. Gooden to read aloud the resolution and discuss how the cuts will affect almost all federal programs including education through the Budget Control Act of 2011 scheduled to become effective on January 2, 2013. After discussion, Mr. Wade made the motion to approve the editing of the “Now Therefore be it Resolved” section of this resolution, Dr. Mehl seconded. The vote for approval was 5/0. Dr. Mehl then made a motion to adopt this resolution as edited, Mr. Wade seconded. The vote for approval was 5/0. Ms. Cole instructed Dr. Gooden to send the signed resolution to the Arkansas members of the U.S. Congress asking that they take action before January 2, 2013.

There was no one present for citizen participation.

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

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David Hunton, President

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Deanie Mehl, Secretary